

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09648 191331Z

51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEAE-00 AEC-11 EA-11

AID-20 SWF-02 AGR-20 EB-11 OMB-01 CIEP-02 NASA-04

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

DRC-01 /239 W

----- 048644

R 191255Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2786

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: FURTHER COMMENT BY MRS. GANDHI ON REACTION TO
INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST

REF: NEW DELHI 9567

SUMMARY: IN A DANISH TV INTERVIEW RECORDED JUNE 28 BUT
RELEASED JULY 18, MRS. GANDHI REITERATED THAT UNNAMED
COUNTRIES HAD OVER-REACTED TO THE INDIAN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR
EXPLOSION. SHE DEFENDED THE INDIAN SPACE PROGRAM
AS ALSO ONLY DESIGNED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, DENIED THE
PRESENCE OF FOREIGN BASES IN INDIA, AND TALKED ABOUT THE
PRAGMATIC NATURE OF INDIAN SOCIALISM. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09648 191331Z

1. NUCLEAR EXPLOSION REACTION: MRS. GANDHI ARGUED THAT

THE THINKING OF THE WORLD HAD BEEN CONDITIONED BY THE FACT THAT NUCLEAR COUNTRIES HAD THOUGHT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY ONLY IN TERMS OF MILITARY USES. "THEREFORE, THEY FIND IT VERY STRANGE TO ACCEPT THAT THERE IS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY AND WHICH WANTS TO USE IT MERELY FOR PEACEFUL AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES." WHEN THE INTERVIEWER CITED THE REACTIONS OF RUSSIA, FRANCE, CHINA AND THE UK, MRS. GANDHI SAID THEY HAD BEEN "MORE REALISTIC." WHILE DENYING THAT THE EXPLOSION HAD CHANGED THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE AREA, SHE SAID, "INDIA IS A FACTOR IN THIS REGION WHICH MANY COUNTRIES TEND TO IGNORE--THE WEST HAS, UNFORTUNATELY LOOKED AT US WITH SOME CONDESCENSION AT OUR ABILITY TO DO THINGS." ASKED WHETHER SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD LIMIT THEIR AID AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION, SHE RESPONDED, "MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OUR PROGRAM IS ONE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT AND I THINK THEY ARE NOT MAKING A CHANGE. SOME MAY. THAT WILL NOT AFFECT OUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM BUT IT WILL AFFECT THE ORDINARY PEOPLE. IT WILL AFFECT FOOD PRODUCTION. FOR INSTANCE, IF WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY, THE FIRST THING THAT IS AFFECTED IS FOOD PRODUCTION AND THE ORDINARY INDIAN PEASANT, THE FARMER.... SO WE HOPE PEOPLE WILL SEE IT IN THAT LIGHT."

2. SPACE PROGRAM: THE INTERVIEWER SUGGESTED INDIAN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A THREE-STAGE ROCKET MIGHT BE PART OF THE REASON FOR SUSPICION IN PAKISTAN. MRS. GANDHI RESPONDED THAT INDIAN KNOWLEDGE AND STRENGTH WOULD BE USED FOR SOLVING ITS OWN PROBLEMS, NOT AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES. SHE CITED US STUDIES SHOWING THE BENEFIT OF SPACE PROGRAMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY. "THE (INDIAN) SPACE PROGRAM HAS NO MILITARY OBJECTIVE. ITS ENTIRE OBJECTIVE IS TO SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS OF SATELLITE."

3. THE INDIAN OCEAN AND FOREIGN BASES: WHEN THE INTERVIEWER DREW HER ATTENTION TO "THE PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN OF THE BIG AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN FLEETS," MRS. GANDHI EXPLAINED, "WE ARE AGAINST ALL FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 09648 191331Z

BASES AND BELIEVE THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE AN AREA OF PEACE AND COOPERATION." SHE ADDED A DENIAL OF "WESTERN PRESS REPORTS" OF FOREIGN BASES IN INDIA. "WE DO NOT HAVE ANY, NOR DO WE INTEND TO ALLOW ANY FOREIGN POWER TO HAVE ANY BASES, WHETHER SOVIET OR ANY OTHER."

4. INDIA-PAKISTAN:
THE PAKISTANI FEARS SEEMED "A LITTLE

DRAMATIC AND OVER-DONE," MRS. GANDHI SAID. "UNFORTUNATELY PAKISTAN IS SOMETIMES ENCOURAGED IN ITS ATTITUDE OF CONFRONTATION WITH INDIA BY PEOPLE WHO GIVE MILITARY AID AND WHO TRY TO EQUATE THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SO DIFFERENT IN SIZE....WE HAVE SAID THAT WE ARE WILLING TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF OUR EXPERIMENT WITH PAKISTANI SCIENTISTS AND OTHER SCIENTISTS OF THE WORLD."

5. INDIAN SOCIALISM: INDIAN SOCIALISM HAS NEVER BEEN DOGMATIC OR DOCTRINAIRE, ACCORDING TO MRS. GANDHI. SHE DID NOT BELIEVE IN NATIONALIZATION FOR THE SAKE OF NATIONALIZATION. "NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE SHOULD BE SACRIFICED TO THE DEMANDS OF TODAY. TODAY OUR EFFORT IS TO INCREASE OUR PRODUCTION ALL ALONG THE LINE AND ENSURE THAT IT IS MORE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED AMONGST THE PEOPLE. THAT IS OUR SOCIALISM AND WE CERTAINLY ARE GOING TO PURSUE THAT POLICY."
KREISBERG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, NUCLEAR TESTS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE09648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740195-0015
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740734/aaaabdbn.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 9567
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER COMMENT BY MRS. GANDHI ON REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005